

April 9, 1974

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I don't think that they were ever considered were they? Mr. Clerk I don't think that those amendments were ever previously considered.

CLERK: Yeah, it is found on page 1081 of the Legislative Journal, they were considered and lost.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK, this amendment to Senator Kelly's campaign finance bill and would substitute for the functions performed by the Secretary of State a state campaign finance commission, which would receive all of the reports and administer the act and also provides for an executive secretary to administer the provisions of Senator Kelly's bill relating to paying campaign expenses by check. The reason for the amendment is that things to establish a non-partisan commission or a by-partisan commission in order to assure a minimum of political interests in the disclosure and maintenance of these records which I think are highly susceptible to political manipulations. I believe that a commission such as this would go a long ways to diminish that responsibility. I believe that Senator Kelly has indicated that he has no objection to these amendments and I urge the adoption of the amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I wonder if Senator Cavanaugh would yield to a question. John, have you given these people a wide range of powers. Let me ask you, could they also look into the candidacy of certain people into offices and constitutional offices and so forth, whereas now the Secretary of State can not do this without action by some opponent, is there any way that they could check?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: This commission would only relate to the finances to administer the powers delegated in Senator Kelly's act relating to paying campaign contributions by check.

SENATOR BARNETT: Then the other part would have to be taken up in some other type of statute, or something, right?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: This simply relates to those powers granted by Senator Kelly relating to maintenance of campaign records and check paying, campaign expenses and things like that.

SENATOR BARNETT: Just a financial a part?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Right.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: May I ask someone a question? Does this bill in its present form take into consideration, or can it the candidates for federal office as well as state or local office?

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly, do you care to respond?

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, the response is that LB677 covers state offices that are named in the Nebraska constitution.